

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

MOTION

MADE BY: VAWSC

SECONDED BY:

That the Long Range Planning Committee be established as a continuing standing committee for the Virginia Area.

BACKGROUND: This is the original motion passed by the Virginia Area at the 2012 Fall Assembly
LONG RANGE PLANNING STANDING COMMITTEE
APPROVED FALL ASSEMBLY 2012

MOTION

That a Long Range Planning Committee be established as a standing committee for the Virginia Area to research and evaluate issues that may affect the business of the Area and to make recommendations to the Area for projects so it will be prepared to maximize the services it provides to Districts, Groups and Service Centers (LDC5/AISs) in a rapidly changing world. The committee shall provide oversight for the voice of the Assembly by monitoring the motions recorded in the Area Decision History for necessary follow-up or review so they reflect the intent of the original motions and are in line with current Assembly practices.

The committee shall be composed of: the Area Chair, Area Delegate, Area immediate Past Delegate, Area Treasurer, one additional Past Delegate, one Service Center Chair, one Alateen Conference Sponsor, three District Representatives from different parts of the Area, and three members, chosen by the committee, who may have specialized expertise and/or special skills.

The committee shall determine its Chair and Recording Secretary. The committee Chair shall be added to the membership of the Virginia Area World Service Committee, if not already a member, and shall report regularly. The committee shall meet twice each year directly following the spring and fall VAWSC meetings with supplementary meetings held as needed by mutually agreed upon technical/internet communications.

Committee members shall serve for a three-year period. The three District Representatives and three members shall serve terms in line with the WSO panel structure. The Service Center Chairs shall alternate every three years.

This Long Range Planning Committee shall operate on a trial basis for a period of four years, after which the VAWSC and Assembly shall evaluate its merit for continuation.

Reason for the Motion

The Area Officers have come to understand that an Area Long Range Planning Committee would allow the Area to anticipate and prepare for potential changes in our rapidly moving and expanding world as opposed to reacting without ample time to do research needed to make an informed group conscience.

Gathering information through education and research is the first ingredient to taking care of oneself. The Area has that obligation and responsibility to those they serve to insure it is not caught by surprise in a situation that could be costly to the Area in volunteer time or put undue strain on the Area's contributions.

No one can truly predict the future; however, the Area should be in a position to make appropriate decisions by at least looking at things the VVSO is investigating that might indicate an upcoming change in policy that may affect Virginia.

Knowing how the benefits of technology may affect different approaches to Area service in the next five to ten years can help us to prepare for those challenges and advantages.

Our first steps in this area of planning and preparation have been in negotiating multiple-year contracts for Area Conventions and Area Assemblies. These steps have proved highly beneficial to the Area in terms of cost and use of volunteer service time.

Recent evidence has revealed that some motions in our Decision History have not been completed as intended. The Long Range Planning Committee's responsibility will include a periodic review of the Area Decision History to insure the voice of the membership and its decisions have been fully implemented.

Pros

- Focused and cutting edge thinking.
- An opportunity for preventative maintenance.
- Positive potential to insure the Area is alert and proactive.
- Taking "One day at a time" is a good personal recovery practice; however, the success and effectiveness of the business of Al-Anon is predicated on realistic expectations.
- Would offer another type of service opportunity.
- Rotation of members on the Committee while retaining current and past experiences will provide balance and continuity to insure responsible planning.
- Monitors the Area Decision History.

Cons

- Anticipation of what is to come can be fear based.
- Could place an additional strain on volunteers available for service.
- Would add \$300.00 in meeting and travel reimbursement to the Area's expenses.
- Would add the responsibility to the incoming Panel to implement this committee.
(Note: Any committee or motion can be presented for reconsideration by any proceeding Panel.)

What We Know

- Because we are not thinking about our future, our strengths are taxed when we must react to change versus a less stressful position of being prepared for the challenges of redirection and new ideas.
- We know we do not have a committee where there is a continuity of past and present members collectively who have acquired service wisdom and expertise over the years that enables them to understand the signs of change in policies and worldly events or outside pressures that might redirect our resources or place pressure on our Area economically.
- The World Service Office has had versions of a Long Range Study Panel for over 16 years.
- Areas throughout the United States and Canadian Provinces have had long standing Long Range Planning committees.

What We Wish We Knew

- Will the Long Range Planning Standing Committee be a benefit to the Area?
- Will the Area be able to acquire committed members to serve on the committee for three years that will be willing to work as a team to help make the committee viable?

Long Range Planning Committee Accomplishments

- Developed an Area Convention plan to resolve the issues of last minute committee formations and short time frames to prepare for a destination event.
- Established a new Area website after research and evaluation of other Area websites and addressing the specific needs of the Virginia Area.
- Developed the Virginia Area Bylaws.
- Filed for 501 c(3) status for the Virginia Area Assembly

Long Range Planning Committee Current Items Under Consideration

- Development of a basic curriculum for GR Opening Sessions and DR Opening Sessions
- Reviewing the Area Decision History
- Assessing contributing factors to the success of Area Service Centers in an effort to determine whether any changes in their operation will improve their viability
- Improving the Area website
- Investigating establishing credit card direct pay for contributions, Assembly registration, and other categories